

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

March 24, 2009

3:50 P.M.

Councilman Gilbert, Chairman, called the meeting of the Parks and Recreation Committee to order, with Councilmen Rico, Bennett, Berz, Robinson, Benson, Page and Pierce present. City Attorney Michael McMahan and Shirley Crownover, Assistant Clerk to the Council, were also present.

Others present included Dan Johnson, Barbara Readnower, Daisy Madison, Richard Beeland, Larry Zehnder, Frank Alford, Gary Hillbert, Greta Hayes and Kathleen McCarthy.

Before the meeting began, Councilman Benson stated that he had received a call about some unloading of a furniture truck across from the Hamilton Place Mall near Walmart. He wanted to know if anyone knew anything about this?

Mr. Hilbert asked him where it was, again. Councilman Benson responded that it was in the Walmart Parking Lot. Mr. Hilbert stated that he would get someone to check on this.

Chairman Gilbert turned the meeting over to Adm. Zehnder.

Mr. Zehnder stated that they had an arrangement with First Tee and had been asked about their status; that they were working to bring conclusion to the Ground Lease and that he had Frank Alford and Kathleen McCarthy present tonight; that they had acquired property for stormwater retention and today would share with the Council agreements. He asked if there were any particular questions—that Kathleen and Frank were here for specific questions. He went on to say that he would call attention to issues that the Agreement calls for; that the Ground Lease is a 25-year lease with a renewal clause to lease further; that it is between the City and First Tee. He reiterated that it was a 25-Year Lease with a renewal clause and that no dollars had changed hands; that this would offer them the opportunity to teach golf to our children; that it was a standard agreement that the City Attorney puts together. He added that the City would be responsible for the operational cost, and they would agree to reserve 25% of the spots in each class for children who might come from our recreation centers. He stated that Greta Hayes was also present to talk about her new home.

Attorney McMahan mentioned UTC. Mr. Zehnder mentioned an agreement between First Tee and UTC that would be worked out for funding.

Ms. McCarthy, Director of First Tee asked if there were any specific questions.

Councilman Page asked how they were raising funds for First Tee?

Ms. McCarthy responded that they had \$475,000 in hand and committed; that most had seen the chart, which showed the entire project and also showed the area. She mentioned that \$1.5 million in contributions had backed off, and they would be meeting with contributors next week; that we were looking at a chipping green where all would have a place to practice and learn.

Councilman Page asked if this would be started soon? Ms. McCarthy responded that she thought it was hopeful; that this program is not new. She mentioned that one of the first students in 2001 just graduated from college; that quite a few were in college; that 300 kids were involved in the summer; that they had been able to manage Brown Acres and also Lupton City was available; that it would be nice to have a home for the City.

Chairman Gilbert shared that his kid went to First Tee to learn to play golf, and it had helped him to negotiate his business dealings.

Ms. McCarthy stated that there would be a nice practice facility where they could chart life skills such as welcoming and showing respect, courtesy towards others, responsibility for the course, honesty of players, modeling sportsmanship, developing confidence, using good judgement, and playing with perseverance. Adm. Zehnder added that it teaches patience, too.

Ms. McCarthy mentioned the developmental assets on the back of the handout (which is made a part of this minute material); that they start out as players of golf and end up as players in the game of life.

Councilman Benson stated that he thought he had heard that this would be open for teaching golf skills to adults and that they would be charged for this. Ms. McCarthy responded that this was correct, and it would be at an affordable rate—that it would not be free but would be affordable.

Councilman Page stated that he loved this and asked that Ms. McCarthy give the Council an example of how they taught young people to “stay cool”.

Ms. McCarthy agreed that staying cool is a great life skill; that what one could learn was that getting angry does not help; that they would be asked to replay what they just did; that with self-awareness, you can manage yourself; that when they struggle, they are asked what they would do differently the next time; that they are asked to replay, relax, and determine what happened and are urged to stay calm and go ahead with the game; that they encouraged a positive outlook, which they could apply to life.

Councilman Benson stated that these skills needed to taught to this Council.

Mr. Zehnder complimented Councilman Page on asking a good question.

Ms. McCarthy stated that she appreciated the attorneys and also Mr. Zehnder.

Mr. Zehnder spoke briefly about shared use with UTC, noting that the City has a Shared Use Agreement.

Ms. McCarthy added that they were hoping to be able to progress by themselves; that they had looked at 8 different sites; that they were now moving ahead.

Councilman Benson stated that they were mitigating real water problems.

Ms. McCarthy mentioned that UTC needed a place to go to practice; that they would have only one spot.

Adm. Zehnder stated that this would be on next week's agenda.

Adm. Zehnder stated that he would like to bring the Council up to date on Youth Programming and that Greta Hayes was present to cover this; that they had swapped Bob Saylor's to Parks and that he would have Greta share their programs.

Ms. Hayes stated that she would go over a couple of programs. She started with the Basketball League, which was their largest program. She mentioned a great number of programs, talking about the Midget League and the Pee Wee League and went over the numbers in each League. She stated that they had 708 participants in the Program, which was incredible.

The second program was Chattanooga Parents, mentioning At Your Leisure Camps that were available and where they were located—that they provided different and fun sports and involved community leaders.

Ms. Hayes mentioned that they had a football coaching staff and a Chattanooga Rugby Club, also Lacrosse. She talked about softball and the participation of UTC and also the participation of Frank Burke with baseball. All of these programs are open to city-wide and county-wide children. She went on to say that these are exciting programs, and they had the staff available; that 102 people had registered today for camp.

She went on to talk about the C.H.I.P.S. Program, noting that there would be a Golf Tournament next week at Brown Acres; that this had been a big success last year.

Ms. Hayes spoke of softball, mentioning a Girls Softball League, with 12 teams registered, stating that they traveled a lot.

Councilman Benson mentioned the registration fee per person and asked if it could be for any kids, wherever they lived? He asked if they could be out-of-state. He suggested raising the tuition for out-of-city kids and lowering the tuition for city kids.

Councilwoman Robinson stated that she thought this was absolutely wonderful.

Chairman Gilbert stated that they brought in top-notch people and kids were able to get scholarships; that this was a great program.

Mr. Zehnder mentioned **Resolution (a)** on tonight's agenda that authorizes a contract for the Warner Park Ball Field Complex, Phase II Landscaping to Outdoor, Inc. in the amount of \$49,321.64, plus a contingency amount of \$9,865.00, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$59,185.64. He stated that next week there would be a Resolution on the Agenda that authorized a 25-Year Ground Lease with First Tee of Chattanooga, Inc. and a Shared Use Agreement with First Tee of Chattanooga and UTC and University of Chattanooga Foundation, Inc. for the use of property commonly known as the Old Hickory Valley Golf Course. There will also be a review of the Art Plan.

Chairman Gilbert indicated that he would like the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting brought up early on the 31st; that it needs to be put on the agenda and moved up some. Councilman Page stated that this meeting was advertised as an Economic Development Committee; that it was such a different item that it did not make sense to him to have it under Economic Development—that this was illogical; that he would ask the Council to suggest something else tonight.

Councilwoman Berz stated that the meeting that was supposed to be scheduled with David Eichenthal did not happen.

Councilwoman Robinson explained that she did not mention it in open meeting to be advertised; that we need to fully enlighten David Eichenthal as to what we will need.

Councilman Page still questioned this being in Economic Development.

Councilman Benson suggested that it could be a Special Meeting.

Councilman Page suggested that both issues could be in a Parks and Recreation Committee at 4:00 P.M.

Chairman Gilbert stated that we would have David Eichenthal talk first.

Councilwoman Bennett inquired if they were talking about a follow-up to the Strategic Plan?

Councilwoman Berz stated that apparently the stuff sent out by her had never been approved, and we could do that at the 1:30 p.m. meeting and that David Eichenthal could be asked to be there.

Chairman Gilbert added that they would be bringing in guests, too.

It was decided that Councilwoman Berz and Chairman Gilbert's Special Report could be discussed in the Parks and Recreation Committee.

Adm. Zehnder stated that next week they would also be talking about Heritage Park Additional Acreage Planning and a May 16th event of the Washington Hills Concession/Restroom Dedication at 12:00 noon.

Chairman Gilbert urged all who could to come to the Washington Hills Dedication on May 16th. This will be on a Saturday, and he indicated that they would have the best food, which should encourage Councilman Rico to come.

Councilman Benson mentioned that Warner Park really looks good.

Greta Hayes stated that for those that had not seen Warner Park, that she would be happy to set something up for a tour.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 P.M.